(b) NAFED has informed that the NHRDF is managing its resources from increased feed production and distribution programmes. The NHRDF has also adopted economic measures by cutting down expenditure under various avoidable heads. It has also submitted more projects/schemes to National Horticulture Board on area expansion of onion, post harvest technology and seed production for financial assistance.

Reimbursement of 50% subsidy on Food Items to A.P.

2204. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any representation from the Andhra Pradesh Government that the Union Government should reimburse to the former fifty per cent of the subsidy required for distributing food items and other essential commodities in the State through the public distribution outlets;

(b) if so, details thereof and the reaction of Goverment thereto; and

(c) what other steps are being contemplated to contain the prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 10.00 crores on matching basis for supply of non-PDS essential commodities through fair price shops in the State has been received. Similar requests from other State Governments have also been received. No. decision has been taken in the matter.

(c) The Government has accorded the highest priority to the control and stabilisation of prices of essential commodities. Imports of items which are in short supply, like pulses and onion, have been placed under OGL at zero percent import duty. Duty on the import of edible oils has been reduced to 15 percent from 25 percent in order to augment availability. Export of onions has been banned. The additional allocations of rice and wheat under the Public Distribution System (PDS) have been reviewed. A decision has been taken to release upto 40 lakh tonnes of wheat to the State Governments for open sale. Stringent action is being taken under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commudities Act by the State UT Governments against hoarders. black marketeers and other indulging in mal-practices in essential commodities.

NCCF supply to Government departments

2205. CHAUDHARY CHUNNILAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no infrastructure is available with the NCCF for supply of stationery and other items of office use Government departments and supplies are effected through local supliers;

(b) whether any local supplier can supply any brand of item and the suppliers are not selected item-wise;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of items supplied by the local suppliers and manufacturers/ distributors/dealers, duly authorised (suparately), giving the brand names thereof, the cost of supply to NCCF and the rate at which NCCF supplied to Government departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The NCCF, being an apex level consumer cooperative, have necessary infrastructurers to supply stationery and